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Newsletter

March 2001

Volume 51 Number 2

Administrator's Note

The past few months have been busy and challenging. The recovery efforts from the fires and the winter storm continue to require considerable attention. Concerns are developing over the low snow packs in the mountains. If this trend continues it will likely effect the 2001 fire season, energy issues, and drought implications for agricultural and domestic water supplies.

On the national scene, we are looking forward to working with the new FEMA Director, Joe Allbaugh. Through the National Emergency Management Association (NEMA) we are addressing the issues of emergency management funding for local government, Stafford Act changes, terrorism preparedness, wildfire and drought. September 8-12, 2001 we will be hosting the national NEMA meeting at Big Sky with the help of Gallatin County.

The lessons learned from the 2000 fire are still very much on our mind. There are mitigation grant opportunities available for local government to address prevention issues. Missoula will be hosting a Fire Wise Conference March 5-7, 2001. This will be an excellent opportunity to learn how to apply fire mitigation at the local level. We have scheduled a DES Agency Representative course for March 20-22, 2001 in Helena to train individuals that we can deploy to counties in the times of crises. During the fires we could not meet all the requests for service.

We can't predict the weather but we can predict that our workload will increase and there will be many new challenges this spring. These challenges just reinforce our need to continually prepare and occasionally step back to look at the big picture.

December 2000—The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers winds up an "Advance Measures" project in Superior, Montana. The Project was designed to help prevent downtown flooding which could result from runoff from a severe wildfire burn just above town in the Flat Creek drainage. Total cost of the mitigation project was about $85,000.00.

We look forward to the many opportunities ahead of us and a continued improvement in our abilities.

Jim Greene
DES Administrator

Spring Edition

STATE OF MONTANA

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Editor Notes

As always, I hope this edition of our newsletter finds you busy, healthy and enjoying the year 2001. It's hard to believe that 2000 has already passed us by. With all its challenges to emergency managers across the state, most of us are glad it is over. It appears, however, that dry conditions continue to plague Montana—(take a look at the enclosed charts Jens developed). Let's all cross our fingers and hope we receive some significant snow, rain, sleet, whatever! - any weather event that brings us some much needed moisture would be welcomed. We all deserve a nice, relaxing summer.

Until Next Time!
Monique T. Lay
Newsletter Editor

P.S.
Articles and submissions from other organizations are a welcome addition to our newsletter. Remember, the deadline dates are always printed on the back page of the newsletter.

Thank you to the following for contributing to this newsletter:
Jim Greene, , Vivian Manual–Commerce, Jens Bolstad, Norm Parrent, Bill Thomas, Fred Naeher, , Chris Floyd, Keri Lay, Anastasia Burton, Homer Young, Deb Ranum–Fallon County, Rorie Hanrahan–FEMA, Jim Rea, - Glasgow Weather Service, Andrew Pohl–Glasgow Weather Service, Rick Dittmann–Great Falls Weather Service, Bobbe George-Lance–Industrial Communications & Electronics, FEMA–News Releases, Natural Hazards Observer, and Pat McKelvey–Lewis & Clark County Project Impact.

Cover Page photograph
Provided By:
Bill Thomas, DES District I

Press Release

STATE RECEIVES FEDERAL DISASTER FUNDS FOR WINTER STORMS

HELENA - Governor Marc Racicot's request for federal disaster funds for damages caused by early harsh snowstorms in six Eastern Montana counties has been approved by President Clinton.

"This year's early storms caused significant damages. We are grateful for the additional assistance provided by the federal government for those negatively affected," said Governor Racicot. "And we appreciate how quickly the disaster declaration was approved."

The federal assistance will allow the rural electric co-ops in the declared areas to recover eligible costs associated with restoring power to approximately 400 families and for the repair of their systems that were damaged or destroyed by the snowstorms that occurred at the end of October and the first week of November. Costs incurred by counties or cities in the disaster area may also be eligible. Eligible costs would be reimbursed by FEMA at 75% with a 25% match from the applicant.

Downed powerlines left approximately 400 families without power in the Northeast corner of the state in Roosevelt and Sheridan counties. In some cases, it took up to two weeks to restore power. Sheridan Electric Co-op estimates that 500 power poles were broken, knocked down or otherwise damaged and powerlines snapped from heavy and freezing snowfall and high winds during the season's first severe snowstorm.

The declared counties are: Sheridan, Roosevelt, Richland, Wibaux, Fallon, and Carter.

--END--

Severe Storms

Another Presidential Disaster Declaration for Montana...

Just the Facts:

Beginning October 31, 2000 and continuing through November 20, 2000, severe winter storms inundated the eastern part of Montana.

Damages from this series of storms resulted mainly from loss of power and the resulting consequences.

*Approximately 400 families were without power.
*Some areas lost power for up to two weeks.
*Sheridan Electric Co-op suffered extensive damage to power poles and downed electric lines.
*Lower Yellowstone REA, Golden West Electric Co-op, and Southeast Electric Co-op encountered similar damages.

As a result of the severe winter weather, President Clinton approved Governor Racicot's request for the use of federal disaster funds to assist in the following affected counties:

Carter	Roosevelt
Fallon	Sheridan
Richland	Wibaux

This Presidential Disaster Declaration provides for:

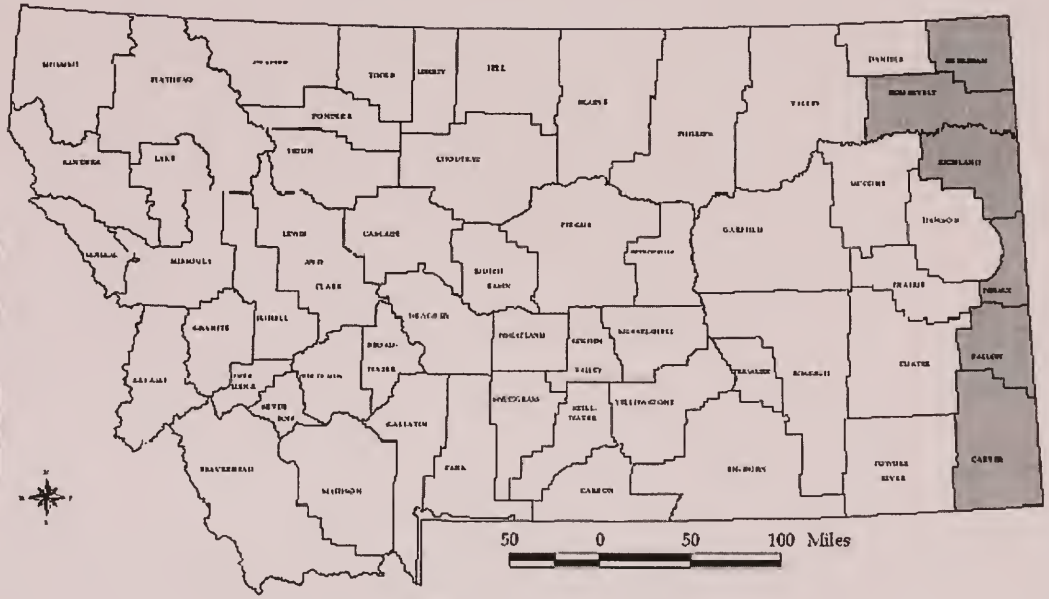
Public Assistance
Provides assistance for state, local governments and eligible private non-profit electric co-ops for the repair or replacement of disaster-damaged facilities. This declaration will primarily benefit the rural electrical co-ops for their damages. This does not include normal maintenance or routine activities.

These disaster funds provide 75% reimbursement of the total eligible costs incurred by the effected applicants. The remaining 25% will be the responsibility of the applicant.

Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP)
Assistance to State and Local governments for actions taken to prevent or reduce long term risk to life and property from natural or technological hazards. (All counties in Montana are eligible to apply for HMGP grants.)

Individual Assistance was not requested for this disaster.

FEMA-1350-DR-MT



Designated Counties

Severe Winter Storms
Incident Period: October 31, 2000 through November 20, 2000

Map Provided By:
Jens Bolstad
GIS Coordinator, State DES

Acknowledging County Excellence

The State DES Office has awarded Helen Conradsen, Dawson County Disaster and Emergency Services Coordinator, an ACE Certificate for her outstanding efforts with her county program and partnership with the Glasgow Weather Service and the Corps of Engineers to better prepare her county for the next Ice Jam. Great Job, Helen!!

Because eastern Montana is experiencing normal winter conditions this year, concern over the possibility of ice jam flooding this spring has increased. A workshop designed to further educate area river watchers was held.

On Tuesday, January 9, Helena Conradsen, Coordinator of the Dawson County Disaster and Emergency Services, sponsored the workshop. Several subjects were covered during the ice jam workshop which started out to be strictly for river watchers. However, interest grew and several agencies became involved.

During the workshop, Conradsen was taken by surprise and was presented with an award from meteorologist-in-charge Jim Rea with the National Weather Service for her efforts involving the EAS Plan, the NOAA radio system, support of the research projects in the past few years, for being so diligent in her reporting efforts and for bringing positive attention to the need of an agency support and cooperation.

Representatives from the State Disaster and Emergency Services, NWS, Army Corps of Engineers, Federal Emergency Management Agency and County DES provided information for each other as well as shared educational information with the audience.

Much research has gone into ice jam flood events over the years. As agencies share information already gathered, it saves time and energy in repeating the same type of research. "It also gives people a cross-section of information and data that may have not been available to them before," Rea said.

Prior to 1952, most of the information put together for the research document was found in the newspapers. "Newspaper accounts were used in gauging much of the information. The objective of all the research is to be able to more closely predict when the ice will break up. Being able to predict the breaks will help in being able to warn people earlier of an ice jam flood event," Rea said.

Meteorologist Andrew Pohl with the National Weather Service in Glasgow has created a website where people can track river and ice conditions. Current photos of area rivers depicting ice conditions at a particular time are included.

"Being able to predict the breaks will help in being able to warn people earlier of an ice jam flood event," Rea said.

River watchers are becoming more and more educated in identifying different types of ice, in looking for signs that would indicate the ice is beginning to break up and knowing the different types of ice jams. As they study the river conditions, river watchers log on to the website and make a report. The river watchers have passwords that allow them to input the information. All people living along the Yellowstone River, for example, can log on to the site and see what the river conditions are.

Written By:
Lori Brooks
Ranger-Review Staff Writer
The Insider, January 18, 2001

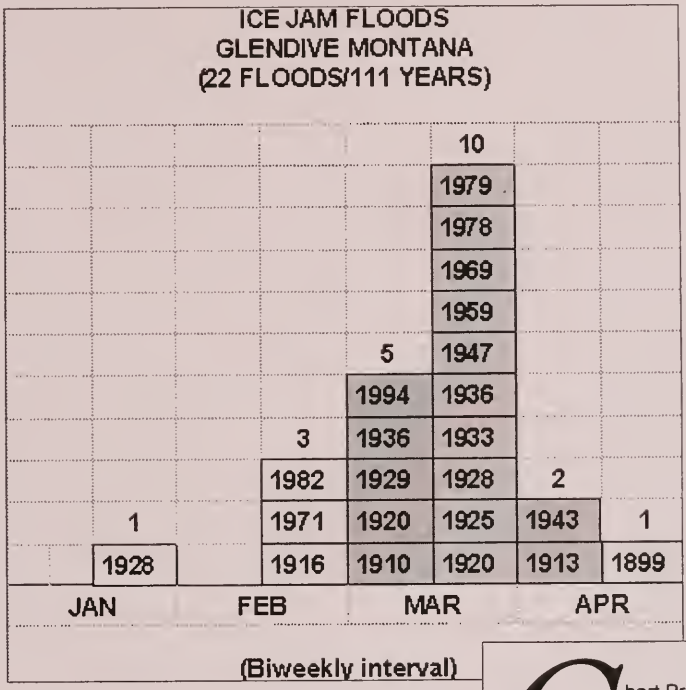


Chart Provided by:
Andrew Pohl
Glasgow Weather Service

The ACE Award was developed to highlight efforts made by the counties to improve emergency management within their jurisdictions. Any contribution made to enhancing any phase within the cycle of emergency management qualifies for a nomination. If you know someone, or a group of individuals, who are providing outstanding services and making extraordinary efforts within their counties, let us know. If you feel you are doing exceptional work, nominate yourself. We would be honored to recognize all of your hard work and want to share ideas and accomplishments with other counties.

In the news...

Disaster, weather experts urge alertness, early warning

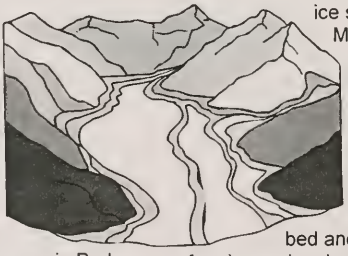
By ED KEMMICK
Of The Billings Gazette Staff

When an ice jam blocks the Yellowstone River and threatens to flood your field, what do you do?

Move your cows, says Norm Parrent, and call your neighbors.

In the old days, dynamite could be used against ice jams, with varying degrees of success, but liability concerns have eliminated that option. "The trend is more and more to let Mother Nature do what she has to do, but to alert everybody so they can get out of the way," Parrent said. Parrent, the District 4 representative of the state Disaster and Emergency Services Division in Miles City, met in Billings Friday with other members of the Yellowstone River Flood Coalition to learn how to get better at telling people to get out of the way.

The workshop was sponsored by the National Weather Service office in Billings and gave river watchers training in identifying ice jams and entering their observations into the National Weather Service database over the Internet. Most of the people at the meeting were county disaster and emergency services coordinators who make their own river observations. In the future, they will recruit other volunteer observers in their counties.



Parrent said disaster and emergency services coordinators from downstream counties between Miles City and Glendive have been trading information since the early 1980s. The workshop Friday was part of an effort to extend that chain of information-sharing along the whole length of the Yellowstone. "We don't think what happens in Park County immediately affects what happens in Hysham, but it does," Parrent said.

Steve Kuhl, a meteorologist with the Billings NWS office, gave a brief historical introduction on the subject of ice jams, saying they have been documented on the Yellowstone River since 1880.

About half of all ice jams occur in March during the late-winter breakup, but 21 percent of them have formed in February. A few jams were documented as late as June.

Statewide, more than half of all ice jams have been recorded on small streams and rivers. Miles City, bordered by the Tongue and Yellowstone rivers, tops the list of cities most often affected by ice jams. Bozeman is in second place, followed by Nashua and Sidney. The bad years for ice jams in recent times, Parrent said, were during the winters of 1992-93 and 1996-97.

Mark Strobin, another Billings meteorologist, gave a slide-illustrated presentation on identifying types of ice and ice jams. He talked about frazil ice, the granulated, almost snow-like ice that looks like gobs of slush when it floats in open water; border ice that forms along a riverbank; block ice that heaves up like boulders; and "frazil pancakes," thin, flat sheets of broken ice. Strobin also told how to identify the various types of ice jams. In a freeze-up jam, common in fall and early winter, a fairly smooth sheet of ice covers the river. In a breakup jam, most often seen in late winter and spring, big blocks or boulders of ice stack up in jumbled heaps. Mid-winter often brings combination jams, formed by floating chunks of ice that build up when thick border ice narrows the river channel.

Then there is anchor ice, which is what you call frazil ice that gradually adheres to the river bed and rises like a stalagmite until forming an ice dam. Strobin said anchor ice is insidious because it generally goes unnoticed by anyone but a trained observer familiar with a particular stretch of river, and it might go unnoticed until it causes flooding.

(Continued on page 9)

(Continued from page 8)

Then there is the "hanging dam," formed like a stalactite when submerged ice sticks to the underside of surface ice and gradually builds into a mass.

Most ice jams, though, form when ice flowing down the river gets lodged against a natural or manmade obstruction or restriction — a bridge, dam, water intake or narrow channel. When the ice stops at the obstruction, the water level rises behind the dam and drops downstream. That stage of the process can slowly flood lowlands behind the dam, but the real danger occurs when the ice jam eventually breaks.

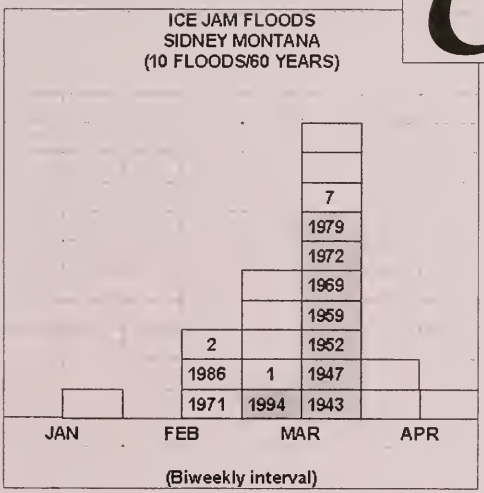
Strobin said jams can go from bank-to-bank sheets of ice to open water in 15 minutes, releasing a flash flood downstream. That's where the river watchers come in. Their job is to alert other people along the river to conditions upstream and downstream so they have time to protect themselves and their property. Andy Pohl, with the NWS in Glasgow, gave a talk about entering river observations into the NWS database. For now, he said, the database will tell people about current conditions on the Yellowstone and other rivers in Montana. In three or four years, when enough information has been entered and sifted, the NWS will be able to correlate the data and perhaps begin making some forecasts about river flooding, Pohl said. Jim Zabrocki, the disaster and emergency services coordinator for Custer County, passed out a sheet listing standard operation procedures to be followed when river levels or ice conditions require the sharing of emergency information.

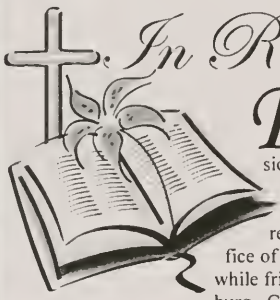
Those procedures involve making a series of calls to county DES coordinators, district representatives, downstream colleagues on the Yellowstone and the National Weather Service. This effort is something new, Zabrocki said, but "theoretically, this approach could be used on all the rivers in Montana." Given the time of year and the recent cold weather, Zabrocki said toward the end of the meeting, "We're about to start the fun and frolic."

"Yeah," Pohl said, "it's about that time, isn't it?"

Provided by:
Norm Parrent
DES District IV Rep

Chart Provided by:
Andrew Pohl
Glasgow Weather Service





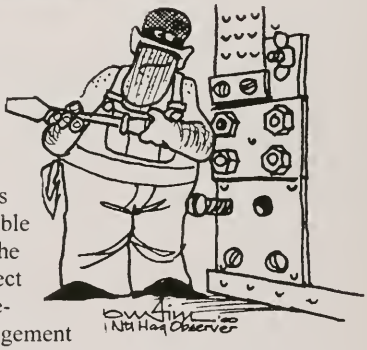
In Rememberance

Frank Waldbillig, age 77, the longest serving county commissioner in Montana, died Wednesday, Dec. 13, 2000. Frank served as commissioner for 36 years and was a steadfast supporter of civil defense/DES/ emergency management as it evolved over the years. He will certainly be missed. Frank was born in Butte and was a rancher and real estate broker, recently in partnership with Thor Sichveland, coordinator, Granite County Office of Emergency Management. He died in his sleep in a Missoula motel room while friends and family waited for him at a retirement party in his honor in Philipsburg. Condolences to his family and many friends.

Important Update

The State of Montana website has a new look and a new address:

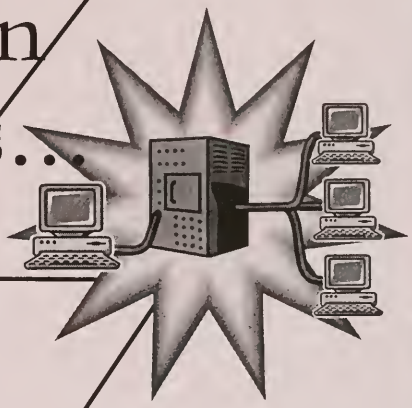
http://www.discoveringmontana.com



If there are still any emergency managers out there who do not yet have a subscription to **"Natural Hazards Observer"**, you really ought to get one. It's FREE, published monthly, and is virtually indispensable to emergency managers who want to stay abreast of the field. The Observer contains guest editorials by subject matter experts, articles on current issues and events, e-mail addresses for every hazard and emergency management issue imaginable, contracts and grants, conferences and training, and recent publications. For you free subscription write: Natural Hazards Research and Applications Information Center (NHRAIC), Institute of Behavioral Science #6, University of Colorado at Boulder, 482 UCB, Boulder, CO 80309-0482. Website is http://www.colorado.edu/hazards.

Submitted by:
Bill Thomas
DES District I Rep

A few fun Web Sites...



www.cdc.gov/travel
Staying healthy abroad: Health information on specific regions...recent disease outbreaks... advice for travelers with special needs.

www.trinet.org/shake
More earthquake technology. Try this site to see an example of a shake map.

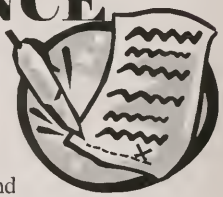
www.mapquest.com
Plan your route: For detailed driving instruction — including mileage between checkpoints — and a map, just enter your starting point and your destination.

www.jumpcity.com
A directory of recommended Web sites for a wide range of subjects.

www.travlang.com/languages
Learn the lingo: Useful expressions in dozens of different languages. This site also includes sound files so you hear the words pronounced.

DISASTER MITIGATION... BUYING INSURANCE

Even with adequate time to prepare for a disaster, you still may suffer significant, unavoidable damage to your property. That's when insurance for renters or homeowners can be a big help. Yet, many people affected by recent disasters have been underinsured- or worse- not insured at all. Make sure the insurance you buy protects against the perils you face.



If You Own a Home...

- Buy, at minimum, full replacement or replacement cost coverage. This means the structure can be replaced up to the limits specified in the policy.
- Investigate buying a guaranteed replacement cost policy. When and where available, these policies can pay to rebuild your house, including improvements, at today's prices, regardless of the limits of the policy.
- Have your home periodically reappraised to be sure the policy reflects the real replacement cost.
- Update the policy to include any home improvements, such as basement refinishing. Annual automatic increases may not be enough to cover these.
- Buy a policy that covers the replacement cost of your possessions. Standard coverage only pays for the actual cash value (replacement cost discounted for age or use).
- Be very clear about what the policy will and will not cover, and how the deductibles work (the part you pay before the policy pays).
- Check state-operated or federally operated insurance pools if you find it difficult to obtain private coverage because of a recent disaster. Premiums often run higher than market rates, but this is better than no coverage.

- Conduct a home inventory, make a list, and use it to check that your policy's coverage matches the value of your possessions.

If You Rent...

- Buy renter's insurance, which pays for damaged, destroyed, or stolen personal property. Your landlord's insurance won't cover damage to or loss of your possessions. Also, consider special coverage like flood insurance for your belongings.
- Be clear about what a policy will cover. Some policies cover more than others. For example, will the policy pay for living expenses if you have to live somewhere else temporarily, or for damage from sewer backup?

- Comparison shop for the best coverage at the best price. Policies vary from company to company. Policies in most areas are very affordable. Start with the company that insures your car. Discounts are often available if you carry more than one policy with a company.

You may also want to consider special coverage as insurance for renters and homeowners won't cover certain types of losses. Ask your insurance agent or financial planner about special or additional coverage for floods, earthquakes, home offices, and other potential problems.

Written By: Chris Floyd
Disaster Services Director
Capital Area Chapter
American Red Cross

Why...

Why...?
Why don't you ever see the headline "Psychic Wins Lottery"?

Why...?
Why isn't there mouse-flavored cat food?

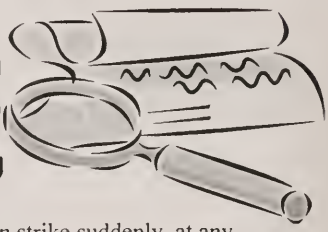
Why...?
Why is "abbreviated" such a long word?

Why...?
Why does the sun lighten our hair, but darken our skin?

Why...?
Why is it that doctors call what they do "practice"?

How to Conduct:

A Household Inventory



Natural or other disasters can strike suddenly, at any time and anywhere. Your first priority, of course, would be to protect your family and your property. But it is also important to protect against the financial consequences of a disaster. The key is to begin planning now. One common sense step you can take in preparing for a disaster is to conduct a household inventory by making a list of everything you own. If disaster strikes, this list could help you prove the value of what you owned if those possessions are damaged or destroyed. This in turn will make it more likely you will receive a fast, fair payment from your insurance company. This will also provide documentation for tax deductions you claim for your losses.

The following are suggestions for conducting a thorough home inventory...

Record the location of the originals of all important financial and family documents, such as birth and marriage certificates, wills, deeds, tax returns, insurance policies, and stock and bond certificates. Keep the originals in a safe place and store copies elsewhere. You will need accessible records for tax and insurance purposes.

Make a visual or written record of your possessions. If you don't own a camera or videotaping equipment, buy an inventory booklet and fill it out, or make a simple list on notebook paper. Ask your insurance agent if he or she can provide one.

Go from room to room. Describe each item, when you bought it, and how much it cost. If you're photographing or videotaping, have someone open closet doors and hold up items.

Record model and serial numbers.

Include less expensive items, such as bath towels and clothes. Their costs add up if you have to replace them.

Be sure you include items in your attic, basement, and garage.

Note the quality of building materials, particularly for such furnishings as oak doors or expensive plumbing fixtures.

(Continued on page 15)

Bush Names New FEMA Director

January 5, 2001—On January 4, president-elect George W. Bush named Joe Allbaugh, a long-time adviser, the former governor's chief of staff, and the manager of Bush's presidential campaign, to head the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) under the new administration.

Although the position remains subject to Senate confirmation, one political observer commented that if Allbaugh is confirmed, his strong association with Bush could bode well for FEMA and disaster management generally, since it would continue the agency's close relationship with and access to the president - a relationship initiated under the Clinton administration with the appointment of Clinton associate James Lee Witt as director and the subsequent elevation of the position to cabinet status.

(Continued from page 14)

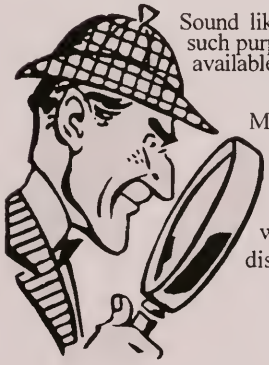
Photograph the exterior of your home. Include the landscaping. Make special note of any improvements, such as a patio, fencing, or out-buildings.

Photograph cars, boats, and recreational vehicles.

Make copies of receipts and canceled checks for more valuable items.

Get professional appraisals of jewelry, collectibles, artwork, or other items that are difficult to value. Update the appraisals every two to three years.

Update your inventory list annually.



Sound like too much work? Computer software programs designed for such purposes can make the task much easier. These programs are readily available in local computer stores.

Most important, once you have completed your inventory, leave a copy with relatives or friends, or in a safe deposit box. Don't leave your only copy at home, where it might be destroyed. Do what you can. Taking even limited action now will go a long way toward preparing you financially before a disaster strikes.

Written By: Chris Floyd
Disaster Services Director
Capital Area Chapter
American Red Cross

Out & About

Look at what's happening in Emergency Management.

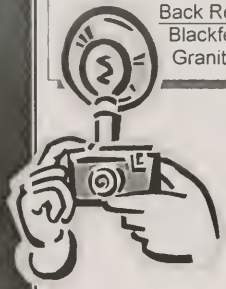
Photograph Provided By:
Fred Naeher
Training Manager, State DES

Orientation to State DES

December 5-8, 2000—Another successful Orientation to State DES was held in Helena. From left to right are our newest graduates:

Front Row: Kerry Schneckloth-State DES, Mary Ann Gregory-State DES, Bonnie Ostertag-Judith Basin County DES, Jane Ellis-Missoula County OEM, Jim Greene-DES Administrator, Jason Shrauger-Gallatin County DES, and Sheri Meadow-Smith-State DES

Back Row: Tom Sandburg-State DNRC Dam Safety, Mark Keller-Blackfeet Tribe, Steve Stanley-Lake County, Thor Sichveland-Granite County DES, and Greg Chilcott-Ravalli County OEM.



Photograph Provided By:
Bill Thomas
DES District I Rep

January 2001—Kate White, Ice Jam Researcher with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Cold Regions Research and Engineering Lab, New Hampshire, addresses the audience at the Ice Jam Workshop in Missoula.

October 2000—"Fires 2000" Critique in Helena.

Photographs Provided By:
Bill Thomas
DES District I Rep

January 2001—Lake County OEM Coordinator Steve Stanley looks over a newly installed communication building just outside Polson, MT.

October 2000—Ray Nickless, a Hydrologist for the National Weather Service in Missoula, is holding an extremely scientific, highly technological measuring device. This "stick" was used to measure a culvert at Superior, Montana. The culvert is to be replaced by the Army Corps of Engineers under the "Advance Measures" Program.

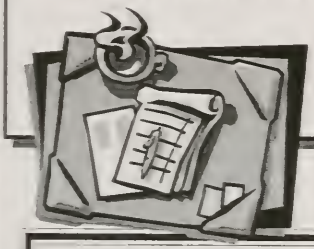
December 5-8, 2000—Participants of the ***Orientation to Montana DES Course*** in Helena.

County Updates

Big Horn County:
Dispatch: (406) 665-9780

Blaine County:
Deputy Kraig Hansen
Phone Number: (406) 367-3691
Cell Number : (406) 799-0977
Fax Number: (406) 357-2199

Judith Basin County:
Bonnie Ostertag
Cell Number: (406) 366-4049
Address: PO Box 427, Stanford MT 59479
Internet address: jbcdes@yahoo.com



Region VIII States

COLORADO (Tommy F. Grier, Jr.)	(303) 273-162
MONTANA (James F. Greene)	(406) 841-391
NORTH DAKOTA (Douglas G. Friez)	(701) 328-810
SOUTH DAKOTA (John A. Berheim)	(605) 773-323
UTAH (Earl R. Morris)	(801) 538-340
WYOMING (Robert J. Bezek)	(307) 777-490

New Project Impact Web Site

Lewis & Clark County

http://www.projectimpactlc.org

FEMA has remodeled its website (http://www.fema.gov) and has added a new page to provide emergency managers with quick access to information of professional interest. The new page address is

http://www.fema.gov/emanagers

DES Bulleti

Please update your records to reflect the following email changes.

WSSPC no longer has unlimited email boxes at wsspc.org. WSSPC now has only two working emails:

Patti Sutch: wsspc@wsspc.org

Todd Fleming: tfleming@wsspc.org

psutch@wsspc.org and any other emails addressed to X@wsspc.org will be no longer work.

Please... share your newslet with a friend!

Federal Emergency Management Agency

NEWS

PROJECT IMPACT

(303) 235-4800

Denver Federal Center, Building 710 • Denver, Colorado 80225
www.fema.gov/media

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE — January 18, 2001

Media Contact:
Ed Conley, Federal Emergency Management Agency — (303) 235-4909
Buffy Gilfoil, Federal Emergency Management Agency — (303) 235-4895

FEMA Field Tests New School Safety Technology

System provides virtual tour of facilities

DENVER – Bozeman, Mont., is among seven communities in six states that are field testing a new tool that will help first responders take virtual tours of schools and other facilities.

Rick Weiland, director of Region VIII of the Federal Emergency Management Agency today announced the field test, which is led by FEMA. The test will help in fine-tuning the pre-incident planning system (PIPS) developed by the Littleton (Colo.) Fire Department.

"We envision that PIPS will enable firefighters and paramedics to quickly see just how things are arranged in the buildings where they respond," Weiland said. "By knowing how to get to the library or chemistry lab, where a hallway leads and where turn-off valves are, first responders will be able to avoid hotspots and go directly where they are most needed."

Traditionally, emergency personnel have at best had access either to skimpy data sheets or to bulky volumes with complex and, in some cases, outdated drawings of community facilities. While such documents may contain important information, they are often difficult to use in urgent situations.

When the template developed by Littleton Fire Department Captain Jim Olsen is filled out, it allows emergency personnel to simply slip a compact disk into a computer and, in a few clicks, see a floor plan and take a virtual walk-through a facility, complete with 360-degree panoramic views of key spaces. The template format also includes such vital details as contact information, school hours, numbers of students and staff and locations of hydrants and electrical, water and gas switches.

The communities field testing the templates will use their own equipment, including digital cameras, to create virtual walk-throughs of schools. Olsen estimates that it has generally taken him10 to 12 hours to create a walk-though for an elementary school and 20 hours for a high school.

"Anyone who has ever used the Internet can master this system in minutes," Olsen said. "Many sixth-graders now create their own web sites and 'virtual tours' of homes for sale are common on many real estate web sites. The ability to use the same technology to save lives and property is too valuable to dismiss."

In addition to Bozeman, other communities participating in the field test are El Paso County, Colo.; Sparks, Nev.; Corvallis, Ore.; Sioux Falls, S.D.; Watertown, S.D.; and Casper and Natrona County, Wyo.

A demonstration is expected to be available for viewing soon at www.fema.gov/reg-viii.

###

FIREWISE COMMUNITIES WORKSHOP
REGISTRATION FORM

PLEASE INDICATE WHICH WORKSHOP YOU ARE INTERESTED IN ATTENDING
ADDITIONAL WORKSHOP INFORMATION IS LISTED ON THE REVERSE SIDE OF THIS FORM

31 Jan. – 2 Feb. 2001 Asilomar Conference Grounds Pacific Grove, CA ☐	March 5- 7, 2001 University of Montana Center for Continuing Education Missoula, MT ☐	18 – 20 April 2001 Lakeway Inn Austin, TX ☐	23 – 25 May 2001 Inverness Hotel Denver, CO ☐

Fees:
Cost for the workshop is $250.00. This amount includes 2 nights' lodging, meals, registration fee, and the workshop. **If lodging is not required**, the fee would be $125.00 and would include meals, registration fee and the workshop. Credit card payments can be called in to Linda Coyle at 617-984-7486 or mailed. We accept MasterCard, Visa & American Express. Payments can be made at the registration desk. (Please see the reverse of this page for information on **Waiver of Fees**).

Make Checks Payable to: **NFPA**

Registration Form:
Complete the bottom portion of this form and submit it with your payment. The information you include on this form will be used to issue your certificate. Please be sure that your full name is written exactly as you want it to appear on your certificate. 1.6 Continuing Education Credits will be awarded for your participation in this workshop.

Mail Payment and Registration Form to:

NFPA, 1 Batterymarch Park, Quincy, MA 02269
Attention: Linda Coyle

This form must be received 30 days in advance of the workshop of your choice or lodging cannot be guaranteed. Please use this exact address to assure your registration be received and credited accurately.

First Name: _____ M.I. _____ Last Name _____

Company: _____

Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone #: _____ Fax: _____

E-Mail Address: _____ To receive newsletter and Firewise Communities Updates

Credit Card Type & No. _____ Expiration _____

Lodging Required: Yes No T-shirt Size _____ _____ _____ _____ _____
Sm Med Lrg. XL 2XL

Insurance	☐	Local Government	☐	Banking/Finance	☐
Planning Dept.	☐	Wildland Agency	☐	Code Enforcement	☐
Architecture	☐	Fire Dept./Fire Marshal	☐	Industry/Business	☐
Landscaping	☐	Emergency Management	☐	Homeowner Association	☐
Other	☐	State Lands	☐	Federal Lands	☐

WAIVER OF FEES

Due to the important subject matter of this workshop, several workshop sponsors have made a limited number of "scholarships" available. These "scholarships" cover the entire workshop fees for individuals who meet the following criteria.

The fees for the workshop will be waived for participants who are active volunteer members of the following organizations:

Volunteer Fire Department
Community Planning Board (Citizen volunteer)
American Red Cross

To have your fee waived, submit a letter on the Organization's stationery stating that you are working as a volunteer within the organization; are presently in good standing with the organization; and have the support of the organization to attend the workshop. The head of the organization (e.g., fire chief, planning board chairperson, local Red Cross Chapter) must sign this letter.

Jan 31 – 2 February, 2001 **ASILOMAR CONFERENCE GROUNDS** **800 ASILOMAR BLVD.** **PACIFIC GROVE, CA 93950** **831-372-8016** **Geographic Coordinators** **Nancy Porter** **USDA Forest Service** **3735 Neely Way** **Mather, CA 95655** **nporter@fs.fed.us** **916-364-2855** **916-364-2810** **and** **Richard Montague** **Firewise 2000** **1465 Anoche Glen** **Escondido, CA 92026** **Firewise2@aol.com** **760-745-3947**	**5 – 7 March, 2001** **UNIVERSITY CENTER AT THE** **UNIVERSITY OF MONTANA - MISSOULA** **MISSOULA, MT** **406-243-6305** **Geographic Coordinator** **Bernadette Bannister** **Natural Resource Management Division** **Center for Continuing Education** **University of Montana** **Missoula, MT** **bernadet@selway.umt.edu** **406-243-6098** **406-243-2047**
18 - 20 April 2001 **Lakeway Inn** **101 Lakeway Drive** **Austin, TX** **512-261-6600** **Geographic Coordinator** **Jim Blott** **Texas Forest Service** **4328 FM 1488** **Conroe, Tx 77384-3914** **tfsblott@lcc.net** **937-273-2261** **937-273-0484**	**23 – 25 May 2001** **Inverness Hotel and Golf Club** **200 Inverness Drive West** **Englewood, CO 80112** **303-799-5800** **Geographic Coordinator** **Scott Woods** **Colorado State Forest Service** **9769 W 119th Drive, Suite 12** **Broomfield, CO 80021** **scotwood@lamar.colostate.edu** **303-404-9057** **303-465-0140**

January 20, 2001

Last summer's wildland fire season focused the nation's attention on Montana, in great part because of its residential vulnerability to wildland fire. As the hazardous fuels buildup in the wildland/urban interface continues, planning becomes increasingly important both in new home construction and existing home protection. Well-designed communities are aesthetically pleasing and beneficial for residents. Local fire codes, roofing materials, landscaping and road placement can be factored into a plan before a crisis occurs.

Become part of the wildland/urban interface solution by joining us at the Firewise Communities Workshop. You will learn Firewise practices by integrating them into the design and infrastructure of a hypothetical community. You will become familiar with fire hazards that threaten wildland living and identify ways to incorporate Firewise planning into your community. Wildland fire researchers will share their current findings on home ignitability, and communities that have adopted fire protection programs will present their success stories.

Attendance is limited to 100, so you can network with people from all parts of the Southwest. For $250.00, which includes meals and two-nights' lodging, you will receive:

- Instruction in a new, state-of-the-art community planning program.
- A workbook and a CD, which will teach you to plan, and build, a Firewise community.
- Access to continued training in planning and GIS via the Internet.

The Firewise Community Workshop will be held in Missoula, Montana from March 5 -7, 2001 at the University of Montana-Missoula. Please return the enclosed registration form by February 15. Note that full scholarships are available for qualifying individuals. To learn more, visit www.firewise.org/communities, call Linda Coyle of the National Fire Protection Association at (617)984-7486, or contact me using the information below.

Sincerely,

B. Bannister

Bernadette Bannister
Geographic Coordinator
(406) 243-6098 (406) 243-2047 (fax)
bernadet@selway.umt.edu

Why Should I Attend the Firewise Workshop?

The Firewise Communities Workshops were created to help you with the work you do every day --- and to make it better. You will be able to apply your new knowledge immediately, in the following ways...

Architects – Offer your clients value-added features related to wildland fire protection. Determine the best site and materials for new construction and the retrofits that are best suited to homes in fire prone settings.

Bankers – Protect your investment and associated community stability. Analyze lending packages for homes to be built in fire prone areas with an eye to their susceptibility to wildland fire loss.

Builders and Developers – Make your projects safer and more attractive to customers, and know the reasons why. Let fire and other officials hear about your projects' requirements.

Chambers of Commerce – Implement changes into the planning process, which is designed to lessen the community's probability of wildland fire loss.

Elected Officials – Make simple changes to the community's infrastructure that will provide big savings should wildland fire threaten. Add another safeguard to community stability and security.

Emergency Managers – Incorporate wildland fire mitigation into other natural hazard mitigation strategies.

Extension Agents – Advise constituents about proper construction and landscaping techniques, which will reduce the risk of wildland fire loss.

Landscape Architects and Arborists – Create landscaping opportunities in public planning projects. Plan and maintain landscape designs in both private and public areas in a manner which will minimize the spread of a wildland fire.

Planners – Incorporate GIS themes in Firewise planning along with other natural hazard mitigation. Add wildland fire protection concepts to community development planning.

Realtors – Identify Firewise developments and individual features as benefits for prospective buyers.

Other benefits....

.... Earn 1.6 CEUs from the National Fire Protection Association.
... AIA members will receive credit for 16 hrs of Health/Safety & Welfare Course work.
... Receive Firewise planning and building information in the Firewise CD package.
... Access additional post-conference training in Firewise Communities planning via the Internet.

Natural Hazards Mitigation

www.edfacilities.org

National Clearinghouse for Educational Facilities

- News and events
- Information resources
- Customized searches

Hot Topics
Additional Web Sites
NCEF Publications
Construction Data
AskNCEF Request Form
How to Submit Work to NCEF
Site Map

HOT TOPICS

The National Clearinghouse for Educational Facilities tracks Hot Topics on key K-12 school facilities issues. Hot Topics are annotated bibliographies including links to full text publications and related Web sites, descriptions of books, studies, reports and journal articles.

Planning

Build New or Renovate?
Capital Improvement Programs
Community Participation
Community Use of Schools
Condition of America's Schools
Educational Facilities Planning
Facilities Assessment
Hiring Design Professionals
Impact of Facilities on Learning
Natural Hazards Mitigation
Preserving Historic Schools
School Size
Schools for the Future
Site Selection
State and Local Guidelines
Work-Site Satellite Schools

Design

Accessibility in Schools
Art Facilities
Athletic Facilities
Auditoriums
Classroom Acoustics
Classroom Design
Early Childhood Centers
Floor Selection
Food Service Facilities
Furnishings
Health Centers
Libraries/Media Centers
Lighting
Multipurpose Spaces
Music Suites
Outdoor Learning
Playgrounds
Restrooms
Safety and Security
Science Facilities
Space Requirements
Special Education
Student Commons
Teachers' Workplaces
Tech Ed Facilities
Technology Integration

Financing

Bond Issue Campaigns
Equity Funding of Facilities
Federal Funding
Financing Charter School Facilities
Financing Options
Funding Partnerships
Lease/Lease-Purchase Programs
Performance Contracting
School Impact Fees
State and Local Funding

Construction

Building Commissioning
Construction Costs
Portable/Modular Classrooms
Project Delivery Methods
Renovation

Operations and Maintenance

Asbestos in Schools
Athletic Facility Maintenance
Custodial Staffing
Electricity Deregulation
Energy Savings
Facilities Management
Floor Care
Grounds Maintenance
Hazardous Materials
Indoor Air Quality
Integrated Pest Management
Maintenance & Operations Costs
Roofs
Water Conservation

Keep Schools Safe

A Collection of Resources to Help Make Schools Safer

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Concerned Parents
Teachers/School Administrators
Law Enforcement Officers

Featured School Safety Resources

Handling Crisis Situations

What Students Can Do

How Parents Can Get Involved

The Role of Law Enforcement

Effective Prevention Strategies:
Drugs & Alcohol
Gangs
Conflict
Weapons

Model Approaches to School Safety

Discipline Codes that Work

State-by-State Resources

School Safety Bibliography

Designed by The Hastings Group

A Project of the
National Association of Attorneys General
and the
National School Boards Association

Our Mission

About NAAG

About NSBA

Linking Policy

Privacy Policy

Disclaimer

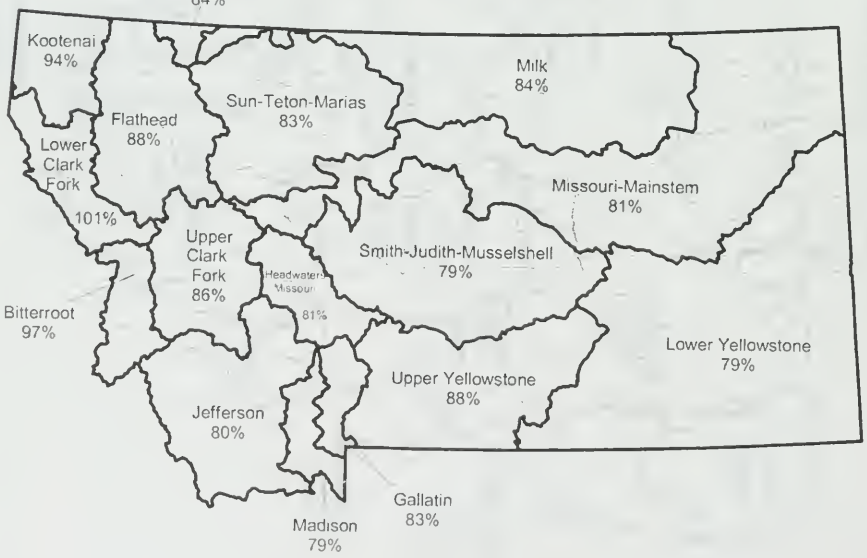
SNOTEL
SNOW WATER EQUIVALENT

% OF AVERAGE AS OF 2/7/01

SNOTEL
SNOW WATER EQUIVALENT

% OF AVERAGE AS OF 2/7/01

SNOTEL
SNOW WATER EQUIVALENT



% OF AVERAGE AS OF 2/14/00

Montana APCO Chapter

Public Safety Communications

Technology Conference

❖ ❖ ❖ ❖ ❖ ❖ ❖ ❖ ❖ ❖ ❖

May 2 & 3, 2001

Billings Hotel and Convention Center
1223 Mullowney Lane, Billings, MT. 59101
800-537-7286 406-248-7151

WHY ATTEND?

Build *a network of contacts as valuable resources you can call on in the future.*

Interact *with peers on all levels who can share experiences with you.*

Learn *from experts in the field who deal with the same challenges you face while planning, managing and operating communications systems.*

Here are just a few of this year's exciting Training Tracks:

Enhanced 911 Implementation
Project 25 Update
Acronyms
CAD Information Exchange
Dispatcher Ergonomics
Stress Management
CPR in the 911 Arena
Mobile Data Architecture
RF Combining
Site Intermod
Funding Sources for 911 Center Hardware
TDD and 911 Centers

DON'T MISS IT! REGISTER NOW!

Montana APCO Chapter

Public Safety Communications

Technology Conference

❖ ❖ ❖ ❖ ❖ ❖ ❖ ❖ ❖ ❖ ❖

May 2 & 3, 2001

Billings Hotel and Convention Center
1223 Mullowney Lane, Billings, MT. 59101
800-537-7286 406-248-7151

Registration:

Name: _____

Department/Agency: _____ email: _____

Mailing Address: _____

Telephone Number: _____ Fax: _____

Registration must be paid by check or money order and made payable to Montana APCO Chapter. The fee includes two lunches.

Conference fee prepaid by April 1, 2001 APCO Members	$45 _____
Conference fee prepaid by April 1, 2001 Non- APCO Members	$60 _____
Conference fee at the door	$75 _____
Conference fee for one day	$35 _____

Join APCO and receive a $15 discount on this conference!

Telecommunicator ($45 conference fee + $32 APCO membership fee	_____
Engineer/Technician ($45 conference fee + $32 APCO membership fee	_____
Active or Commercial ($45 conference fee + $32 APCO membership fee	_____

Mail complete registration form to: APCO Technology Conference, Attn.: Bobbe George, % IC & E, P. O. Box 31632, Billings, MT. 59107

For additional information, call Bobbe George or Bonnie Holbrook @ 406-259-1212.

Important Update

The State of Montana website has a new look and a new address:

http://www.discoveringmontana.com

Visit Our DES Web Site at...
www.state.mt.us/dma/des

MARCH 20
Spring Equinox...

February 28	Ash Wednesday
March 17	St. Patrick's Day
March 20	Spring Equinox
April 1	Daylight Savings
April 8	Palm Sunday
April 8	1st Day of Passover
April 13	Good Friday
April 15	Easter
April 16	Individual Tax Returns
April 25	Professional Secretaries Day
May 1	May Day
May 13	Mother's Day
May 28	Memorial Day

Board!

Spring HOLIDAYS!

How's the Weather?

Extreme Weather Sourcebook 2001—on the web!

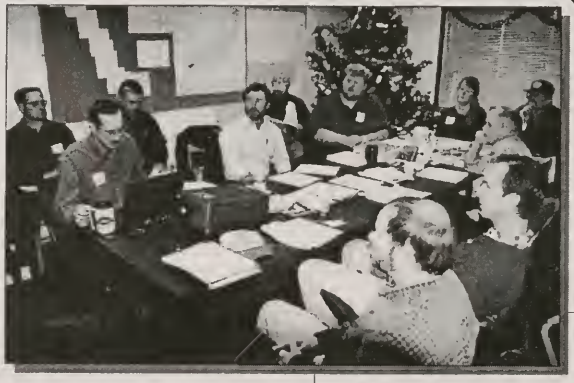
http://www.esig.ucar.edu/sourcebook/

Provided by: Rick Dittmann
Great Falls Weather Service

e-mail Updates:

Judith Basin County
Bonnie Ostertag ..... jbcdes@yahoo.com

FEMA is here to help. The Federal Emergency Management Agency establishes a Disaster Field Office (DFO) in the Helena Armory to help the State of Montana recover from the destructive fires of 2000.



December 2000—Lower Willow Creek Dam Exercise in Philipsburg. The exercise was developed and moderated by Tom Sanburg, DNRC. (Thor Sichveland is the current coordinator of Granite County).

Photographs Provided By:
Bill Thomas
DES District I Rep

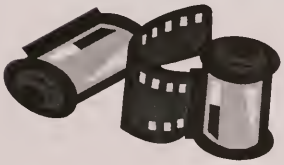
Out & About

Look at what's happening in Emergency Management.

December 2000—Dave Goens, Meteorologist-in-Charge of the Weather Forecast Office in Missoula, receives a gift at his retirement party.

Photographs Provided By: Bill Thomas DES District I Rep

District I holds a meeting hosted by the National Weather Service. Mick Mills, former Lincoln County Coordinator, was also in attendance.



http://www.colorado.edu/hazards/

Over the years, the Natural Hazards Research and Applications Information Center has received many requests for information about the frequency, severity, social consequences, and the costs of natural disasters. Although apparently straightforward, such queries are extremely difficult to answer. They are complicated by such questions as: What constitutes a "disaster"? What constitutes a "cost"? Do we want to look at insured losses or all losses? How can we be sure that loss estimates are accurate for individual disasters and/or that they are comparable across disasters? How can we possibly compare the relatively high property losses in developed countries with the relatively high social costs (such as deaths, injuries, and homelessness) in developing nations? Which indirect costs should be included? And so on . . .

Below are listed some of the more useful and credible sources of such data on the Internet

United States

www.esig.ucar.edu/socasp/toc_img.html
www.esig.ucar.edu/socasp/stats.html
www.esig.ucar.edu/HP_roger/sourcebook/index

The Web site of the Environmental and Societal Impacts Group, National Center for Atmospheric Research provides considerable data on natural disasters, primarily focusing on meteorological events in the U.S. The last URL above provides the Extreme Weather Sourcebook - Economic Losses Related to Floods, Tornadoes and Hurricanes in the United States, with state-by-state data for each hazard.

www.nws.noaa.gov/om/hazstats.html

The National Weather Service offers this "Summary of Natural Hazards Statistics," which covers fatalities due to all hazards, severe weather, lightning, tornadoes, tropical storms, heat, floods/flash floods, cold, winter storms, and high wind.

books.nap.edu/catalog/5782.html

Disasters by Design: A Reassessment of Natural Hazards in the United States - a recently published volume by sociologist Dennis Mileti - examines the status of hazards/disaster knowledge and research in the U.S. at the end of the 20th century. Chapter 3 cover "Losses, Costs, and Impacts." The entire text is available on-line; just click the "Read" button on the left.

www.cbo.gov
www.cbo.gov/byclasscat.cfm?class=0&cat=7

The Congressional Budget Office (CBO) has examined the issue of the rising cost of natural disasters and, at this address, published two reports: Emergency Spending Under the Budget Enforcement Act and Emergency Spending Under the Budget Enforcement Act: An Update, which provide useful data on federal expenditures for natural disasters.

www.nws.noaa.gov/oh/hic/flood_stats/index.html

This Weather Service site provides data on both flood fatalities and flood damage.

www.ncdc.noaa.gov/
/www.ncdc.noaa.gov/ol/climate/severeweather/extremes.html
www.ncdc.noaa.gov/ol/reports/billionz.html
www5.ncdc.noaa.gov/pubs/publications.html

The National Climatic Data Center (NCDC) maintains much information about extreme weather and climate events, including lists of billion dollar weather disasters in the U.S., 1980-1999. At the final URL above, the NCDC provides information on how to obtain Storm Data, the center's ongoing compendium of - you guessed it - storm data. Monthly issues contain a chronological listing, by states, of occurrences of storms and unusual weather phenomena. The reports include information on storm paths, deaths, injuries, and property damage.

www.ibhs.org
www.ibhs.org/ibhs2/html/ibhs_projects/projects_paidloss.html

The Institute of Business and Home Safety (IBHS) Web site maintains insurance loss data for the U.S. The second URL above provides information about the IBHS "Paid Loss Database," which the institute describes as the nation's only database of actual insurance payments from natural catastrophes.

www.disasterrelief.org/Library/WorldDis/index.html

The Disaster Relief Web site provides aggregate statistics on all sorts of natural hazards - primarily for the

(Continued on page 23)

(Continued from page 22)

U.S., but also for the entire globe - including hurricanes (deadliest, most expensive, most intense); earthquakes (deadliest, largest, distribution in the U.S. by region); forest fires (10 largest in the U.S. for 1996); volcanoes; billion-dollar U.S. disasters; etc.

www.disastercenter.com/tornado.htm

The massive Disaster Center Web site includes 50 pages dealing with data from a NOAA tornado statistics data base. The site developers have compiled cost, injury, and frequency data, and then conducted comparisons across states and calculations based on population. Individual state data are accessible this tornado page.

www.nssl.noaa.gov/~holle/techmemo-sr193.html

This 1997 report provides data on Lightning Fatalities, Injuries, and Damage Reports in the United States from 1959-1994 . The data are analyzed along many dimensions and broken down from national to regional numbers.

www.consumerfed.org/disasinspr.pdf

In 1998, the Consumer Federation of America issued a report on skyrocketing federal expenditures for disasters and the uneven distribution of federal disaster relief among states. A summary of that report is available from this federation Web site.

Worldwide

www.md.ucl.ac.be/cred/

The Center for Research on the Epidemiology of Disasters (CRED) Database (EM-DAT) currently documents natural and technological disasters around the world.

In the future, information about conflicts and complex emergencies will be added. EM-DAT contains essential core data on the occurrence and effects of over 12,000 mass disasters in the world from 1900 to present. The database is compiled from various sources, including U.N. agencies, nongovernmental organizations, insurance companies, research institutes and press agencies.

At present, the EM-DAT databases are in two forms: standard and enhanced. The standard database consists of the data taken from an existing disaster database, checked for duplications, but not having any additional information included. As the databases are enhanced (i.e. additional information added) they are added to the Web site. Data are downloadable in several formats. Information in the databases includes:

*The date when the disaster occurred
*Country *Region *Continent
*Dead *Affected Population
*Injured *Homeless
Primary source of disaster information
A unique disaster number for each disaster
Whether OFDA responded to a disaster

The site also provides "Disaster Profiles" derived from data on natural disasters occurring between 1900 and 1998. The profiles cover three areas: Top 10, Chronological Table, and Raw Data; and there are profiles covering individual countries, regions, the entire globe, and various disaster types. The site also offers other summary data and information on disaster trends in the form of graphs, charts, and maps.

www.munichre.com/
www.swissre.com/
www.swissre.com/e/publications/publications/natural1.html

The Munich and Swiss Reinsurance companies have both issued numerous publications documenting disasters around the globe. In particular, MunichRe publishes an annual report that catalogs such events and their consequences for the insurance industry. The most recent report Topics 2000: Natural Catastrophes - The Current Position examines disasters throughout the second millennium and offers numerous charts and graphs indicating numbers of events, economic losses, fatalities, and insured losses. Much of this information is available from the company's Web site.

www.ifrc.org/publicat/

The World Disasters Report, published annually by the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC), offers an accounting of disasters worldwide.

www.disastercenter.com/disaster/TOP100P.html
www.disastercenter.com/disaster/TOP100T.html
www.disastercenter.com/disaster/TOP100K.html
www.disastercenter.com/disaster/TOP100C.html

(Continued on page 29)

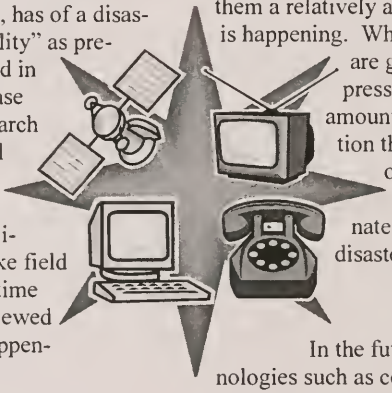
Good Disaster Management

This is the tenth in a series of articles summarized from ***"Ten Criteria for Evaluating the Management of Community Disasters"*** by E.L. Quarantelli, Co-Director of the Disaster Research Center of the University of Delaware.

Principle 9

Provide the mass communication system with appropriate information

A major feature of modern societies is that they have complex mass-communication systems with multiple outlets. The importance of modern mass-communication systems is that the perception of any community disaster, and what is needed to cope with it, is increasingly dependent on what that system provides. In many respects the view that everyone, including emergency managers, has of a disaster is more and more the "reality" as presented on television, radio and in the newspaper. In a recent case covered by the Disaster Research Center, for example, the local television station's live reporting of a hazardous materials spill was used by the incident (fire) commander to make field decisions – at the very same time that official was being interviewed by a reporter on what was happening.



Managers of the different responding organizations are responsible for gathering data on what is happening. If they do not provide relevant details and accounts, the local mass media will disseminate, even if unintentionally, news that is inaccurate and uninformative.

Good disaster management should encourage the development of relationships that are acceptable and beneficial to the responding organizations, the mass media and citizens in general. One indicator of a good relationship is cooperative interaction between organizational and community officials and media representatives. Another indicator is if citizens believe their local media are giving them a relatively accurate picture of what is happening. When these relationships are good, members of the press are satisfied with the amount and quality of information that is given to them by officials, who in turn want them to disseminate information about the disaster.

In the future, more recent technologies such as cellular telephones to direct-broadcast satellites to video-cassette recorders and cable TV will have to be taken into account. There is a mass-communication revolution now in progress.

Contributed By:
Bill Thomas
DES District I Rep

Bring Your Hospital into Your Planning

"Most U.S. hospitals seek accreditation from the Joint Commission on the Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations (JCAHO). Starting in Jan. 2001, JCAHO is changing its emergency preparedness requirements (EC 1.6). The new emergency management standards require hospitals to use the principles of comprehensive emergency management (mitigation, preparedness, response and recovery), conduct a hazard vulnerability assessment, and demonstrate a continuing relationship with the local emergency community.

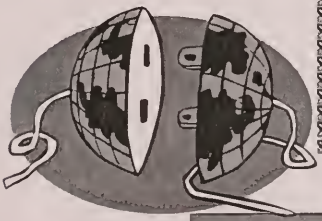
This is a major opportunity to include hospitals in your local planning efforts. Each hospital has an emergency preparedness committee (required by NFPA). Now is a great time to reach out to the chairman of the emergency preparedness committee in your local hospital – and bring your hospital into your planning."

Written by:
Bill Thomas
DES District I Rep

Important Update

The State of Montana website has a new look and a new address:

http://www.discoveringmontana.com



Don't forget to view the Region VIII Newsletter online at:
http://www.fema.gov/reg-viii/index.htm

DES Training Calendar

Please see our website www.discoveringmontana.com/dma/des/training.htm for registration procedures

February 27-March 1: . Governor's Conference (March 1 training day)

March 13-15:..... Indian Nation's Hazmat, Polson

March 20-22:.....Agency Representative Course, Helena

March 23:.....Agency Rep Refresher Training, Helena

March 27-29:.....ICS 300, Great Falls

April 10-12: ..... Leadership and Influence, Bozeman

April 24-27: .....Orientation to State DES, Helena

May 8-10:.....Exercise Design (Intro), Location TBA

May 22-24:..... Terrorism Conference, Helena

June 18-22:..... Win Against Violence
..... All Hazard Emergency Planning for Schools, Billings

Sept 6-12: ..... NEMA Conference, Big Sky

Sept 18-20: ..... SERC/TERC/LEPC

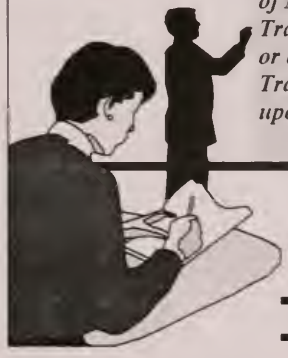
Sept 25-27: .....Exercise Design (Advanced), Location TBA

What's out there?

Just a reminder

The Federal Emergency Management Agency's Emergency Manageemnt Institute offers numerous courses that can be taken individually through its Independent Study Web Page: http://www.fema.gov/home/emi/ishome.ht. Alternatevely, one can contact FEMA, Emergency Management Institute, Independent Study Program, 16825 South Seton Aveneu, Emmitsbure, MD 21727-8998; (301) 447-1000. Courses currently offered include:

IS-1 Emergency Program Manager: An Orientation to the Position
IS-2 Emergency Preparedness, USA
IS-3 Radiological Emergency Management
IS-5 Hazardous Materials: A Citizen's Orientation
IS-7 A Citizen's Guide to Disaster Assistance
IS-8 Building for the Earthquakes of Tomorrow: Complying with Executive Order 12699
IS-10 Animals in Disaster - Module A Awareness and Preparedness
IS-11 Animals in Disaster - Module B Community Planning
IS-120, An Orientation to Community Disaster Exercises
IS-195 Basic Incident Command System
IS-275 The EOC's Role in Community Preparedness, Response and Recovery Activities
IS-279 Engineering Principles and Practices for Retrofitting Flood-Prone Residential Structures
IS-288 The Role of Voluntary Agencies in Emergency Management
IS-301 Radiological Emergency Response
IS-324 Community Hurricane Preparedness
IS-346 An Orientation to Hazardous Materials for Medical Personnel
IS-393 Introduction to Mitigation
IS-394 Mitigation for Homeowners
IS-513 The Professional in Emergency Management
SS-534: Emergency Response to Terrorism (presented by the National Fire Academy-12 hours)



To inquire about Emergency Management Training for the State of Montana, contact Fred Naeher, Training Manager at (406) 841-3968 or email him at fnaeher@state.mt.us. Training Calendars are available upon request.

$17,000 Awarded to Fire Victims

Press Release:

Helena, MT – January 19, 2001 – The Montana Individual Assistance Disaster Fund has awarded $17,000 to last summer's wildfire victims. The monies will help three families meet essential needs not covered by FEMA, private insurance or volunteer agency programs. The recipients will receive their checks this week.

Families from the Bitterroot Valley can now cover their unmet housing, medical, and clothing needs. For one family, the money means they can replace a wheelchair ramp destroyed by the fire, giving access to their home.

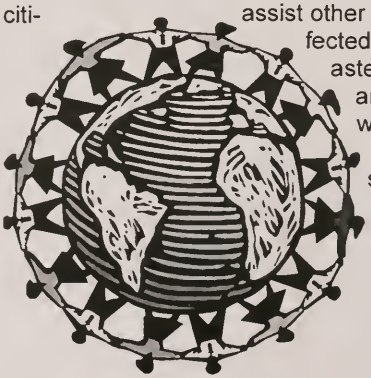
For one family, the money means they can replace a wheelchair ramp destroyed by the fire, giving access to their home.

During the wildfires, calls were received from all over the country asking what they could do to help Montanans. The Montana IA Disaster Fund was created to give callers the option of contributing to the Fund and/or a local charity. Disaster and Emergency Services and the Department of Commerce jointly established this Fund to help Montana citizens.

The largest contribution to the Fund was $ 25,000 from Kumamoto, Japan, a sister state of Montana since 1982. Officials of the Prefecture were in Montana when the Cave Gulch Fire broke out near Helena. "We think of Montanans not only as our cultural and business partners, but as our family and friends," said Yuichi Matsunaga, manager of Helena's Kumamoto Plaza. "As no strangers to disaster, we are gratified that our modest help will benefit the victims of these wildfires." The Fund is still receiving contributions from Kumamoto.

We were overwhelmed by the caring and support Montana received," said Dan McGowan, State Individual Assistance Officer. "This Fund gave us a way to handle monetary donations that appeared on our doorsteps during the wildfires. Although this assistance won't return these families to their pre-disaster state, it puts them on a progressive road to a quicker recovery. That is exactly what they needed and the exact intention of the donors."

The Montana Individual Assistance Disaster Fund is an ongoing interest-bearing account. The remaining monies and future donations can be used to assist other families affected by future disasters. Awards are made in line with the FEMA Individual Assistance guidelines.



If . . . you have food in the refrigerator, clothes on your back, a roof overhead and a place to sleep...you are richer than 75% of this world.

If you have money in the bank, in your wallet, and spare change in a dish someplace...you are among the top 8% of the world's wealthy.

If you woke up this morning with more health than illness...you are more blessed than the million who will not survive this week.

If you have never experienced the danger of battle, the loneliness of imprisonment, the agony of torture, or the pangs of starvation...you are ahead of 500 million people in the world.

If you can attend a church meeting without fear of harassment, arrest, torture, or death...you are more blessed than three billion people in the world.

If your parents are still alive and still married...you are very rare, even in the United States.

- Author Unknown

(Continued from page 23)

Regarding the 20th Century, the Disaster Center Web site offers lists of what it considers to be:

- The Deadliest Technological Disasters
- The 100 Most Expensive Technological Disasters
- The 100 Most Deadly Natural Disasters
- The 100 Most Expensive Natural Disasters

www.epc-pcc.gc.ca/research/epcdatab.html

This Emergency Preparedness Canada (EPC) site provides a downloadable 32-page report that describes EPC's effort to consolidate data on Canadian disasters.

www.nhc.noaa.gov/index.html
www.nhc.noaa.gov/pastdeadlya1.html

The U.S. National Hurricane Center offers much information on hurricanes past and present, including data on the deadliest, most expensive, and most intense storms. Its Web site also lists U.S. strikes by decade and U.S. strikes by state. The data on the deadliest hurricanes are derived from the monograph The Deadliest Atlantic Tropical Cyclones, 1492 - Present by Edward N. Rappaport and Jose Fernandez-Partagas, the complete text of which is available from the second URL..

www.ngdc.noaa.gov/seg/hazard/tsu.shtml

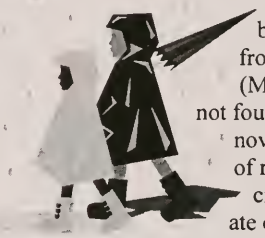
This NOAA site provides a tsunami database that can be searched along any of several parameters, including location, date, magnitude, and number of deaths.

Information Obtained from the:
Natural Hazards Research and
Applications Information Center Web Site

www.colorado.edu/hazards/

NOAA Weather Radio

NOAA Weather Radio is a service of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) of the United States Department of Commerce. As the "Voice of the National Weather Service", it provides continuous broadcasts of the latest weather information directly from National Weather Services offices. Taped weather messages are repeated every four to six minutes and are routinely revised every one to three hours, or more frequently if needed. Most of the stations operate 24 hours daily.



During severe weather, National Weather Service forecasters can interrupt the routine weather broadcasts and substitute special warning messages. The forecasters can also activate specially designed warning receivers. Such receivers either sound an alarm indicating an emergency exists, alerting the listener to turn the receiver up to an audible volume or when operated in a muted mode, are automatically turned on so that the warning message is heard. "Warning alarm" receivers are especially valuable for schools, hospitals, public-safety agencies and new media offices.

Under a January 1975 White House policy statement, NOAA Weather Radio was designated the sole government operated radio system to provide direct warnings into private homes for both natural disasters and nuclear attack. This will supplement warnings by sirens and by commercial radio and TV.

The broadcasts are tailored to weather information needs of people within the receiving area. For example, stations along the sea coasts and Great Lakes provide weather information for boaters, fishers and others engaged in marine activities, as well as general weather information.

NOAA Weather Radio broadcasts are made on one of seven high-band FM frequencies ranging from 162.40 to 162.55 megahertz (MHz). These frequencies are not found on the average home radio now in use. However, a number of radio manufactures offer special weather radios which operate on these frequencies, with or without the emergency warning alarm. Also, there are now many radios on the market, which offer standard AM/FM frequencies plus the so-called "weather band" as an added feature.

NOAA Weather Radio broadcasts can usually be heard as far as 40 miles from the antenna site, sometimes more. The effective range depends on many factors, particularly the height of the broadcasting antenna, terrain, quality of the receiver and type of receiving antenna. As a general rule, listeners close to or perhaps beyond the 40-mile range should have a good quality receiver system if

(Continued on page 31)

(Continued from page 30)

they expect reliable reception. Also an outside antenna may be required in these fringe areas. If practical, a receiver should be tried at its place of intended use before making a final purchase.

The National Weather Service operates about 380 stations. Approximately 90% of the nation's population is within listening range of a NOAA Weather Radio broadcast.

A similar network of about 15 stations using the same frequencies broadcasts continuous weather information across much of southern Canada.

Written By: Chris Floyd
Disaster Services Director
Capital Area Chapter
American Red Cross

Project MAP - *Make a Plan*: A family guide for creating and implementing disaster plans.

Independent Insurance Agents of America

1 (800) 261-4422

Why...?

Why is it that rain drops but snow falls?

Why...?

Why is the person who invests all your money called a broker?

Disaster Planning for Vegetarians

BALTIMORE (AP) - It may be a blizzard in the Northeast, a hurricane in the South, a tornado in the Midwest or an earthquake in the West. It leaves the household without electricity and perhaps without water. These are all situation covered by a booklet titled "Disaster Planning for Vegetarians."

Many groups and sources offer recommendations designed to help people plan for or recover from such disasters. But sometimes those suggestions are not acceptable for vegens or other vegetarians.

The free, four-page handout gives a sample menu for a family of four using foodstuffs that don't need refrigeration, cooking or water to make. Also included is a list of what can go in a three-day food supply for a family disaster kit.

If you have a safe cooking source, the handout says, you can prepare simple hot foods such as canned soups, packaged soups or meals "in a cup,' instant mashed potatoes and dry mixes for humus or refried beans.

To order the booklet, send a self-addressed envelope with two first-class stamps to:

Disaster Planning
The Vegetarian Resource Group
P.O. Box 1463
Baltimore, MD 21203

Why...?

Why is lemon juice made with artificial flavor, and dishwashing liquid made with real lemons?

More Whys...

Why...?

Why is the time of day with the slowest traffic called rush hour?

THANKS!

Thank you to the many organizations who supported the 2001 Governor's Conference and continually contribute to the betterment of emergency management.

Alster Communications
American Red Cross: Big Sky Chapter
Bridger Fire, Inc.
Environmental Systems Research Institute
Flame Safe
Garner Environmental Services
Industrial Communications & Electronics
Military Affairs, Civil Air Patrol
Montana Local Government GIS Coalition
National Weather Service
Olympus Technical Services
Qwest Government & Education Solutions
State Farm Insurance

State of Montana

- Department of Commerce
- Disaster and Emergency Services Division
- Project Impact
- DNRC Fire & Aviation Management Bureau

Verizon Wireless

ACHIEVING ACCREDITATION STANDARDS

FEBRUARY 2001

The Montana DES Association and State DES have adopted a voluntary emergency management accreditation program. Participation in this program demonstrates a commitment to excellence in emergency management. Participation also establishes a common goal towards recognizing emergency management as a profession that is worthy of accreditation. To achieve these standards, an emergency manager must complete the following program:

Voluntary Standards: To achieve voluntary accreditation, the following courses will be completed. A certificate suitable for framing will be presented to those who successfully complete the recommended requirements.

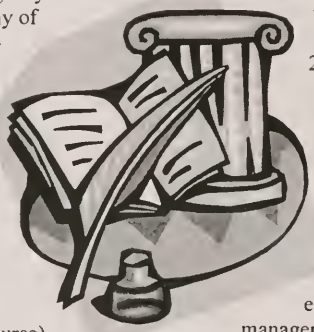
A. Emergency Planning (2 day course)

B. Exercise Design-Basic (2 day course)

C. Hazardous Materials Awareness (4 hour course)

D. Weather Observation (Severe Weather Spotter- 4 hour course)

E. Elective. One of the following:



1. Standards of Survival for Wildfires
2. Winter Survival
3. First Aid, CPR
4. Continuation with a Professional Development Series course or a course that will supplement your field of expertise in emergency management.

(Continued on page 35)

Important Update

The State of Montana website has a new look and a new address:

http://www.discoveringmontana.com

The following emergency managers will be awarded an accreditation certificate on Wednesday, February 28, 2001 during the luncheon:

John Allhands, Madison County

Bernard Barton, Sr. Powell County

Helen Conradsen, Dawson County

Martin Dirden, Blaine County

Charles Hanson, DES District #5 Representative

James Kraft, Yellowstone County

Larry Laknar, Beaverhead County

Karen Marks, Fergus County

Cynthia Mullaney, Pondera County

Fred Naeher, State DES

Curtis Petrik, Sheridan County

Wilma Puich, Butte Silver Bow County

Deb Ranum, Fallon County

Carole Raymond, Rosebud County

Royce Shipley, Malmstrom AFB Disaster Preparedness Specialist

Daniel Sietsema, Roosevelt County

Martha-Jo Smith, Sanders County

Paul Spengler, Lewis and Clark County

Darrell Stafford, Liberty/Toole County

Stephen Stanley, Lake County

Bill Thomas, DES District #1 Representative

Homer Young, State DES

James Zabrocki, Custer County

Congratulations and thank you for your participation in our voluntary programs.

Written By:
Fred Naeher
DES Training Manager

CONGRATULATIONS!

State of Montana
Disaster & Emergency Services Division
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First Class Mail

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Articles or questions regarding articles may be addressed to:

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